

English

A Moratorium on Nord Stream 2

Appeal to the Federal Government and to the Democratic Parties in Germany

Dear Chancellor, Ladies and Gentlemen,

We are reaching out to you to urge that you declare an immediate moratorium on the natural gas pipeline Nord Stream 2. There are many reasons for this step. Nord Stream 2

- undermines European cohesion and transatlantic relations;
- conflicts with the new European and German climate goals;
- threatens the already precarious security of Ukraine and
- runs counter to the aim of a common EU external energy policy.

The Nord Stream 2 project was controversial right from the start. The agreements were signed shortly after the annexation of Crimea and the Russian intervention in eastern Ukraine.

The undeclared war against Ukraine continues, while the crackdown on democratic civil society in Russia grows ever more oppressive. There has also been a whole series of attacks on the liberal democracies of the West. The hopes for “Wandel durch Handel” (change through trade) have not been realised.

Nord Stream 2 is also out of step with current climate policy. The biggest fossil-fuel infrastructure project in Europe, it is intended to lock in the import of natural gas from the Arctic regions of Russia for decades to come. Yet if it is to meet its climate goals, the EU must start reducing natural gas consumption during the present decade.

Nord Stream 2 is not necessary for the energy security of Germany or of the EU. The capacities of existing continental pipelines are sufficient to meet future needs. The new pipeline is primarily a geopolitical project aimed at cutting Ukraine and Poland out of gas transit equation. This is not an aim that the Federal Government should endorse.

Moreover, Nord Stream 2 is completely at odds with the EU's declared aim of diversifying the European natural gas supply and breaking up monopolistic structures.

This project is fomenting discord and distrust within the European Community at a time when the ability to take collective action is crucial. Last but not least, Nord Stream 2 is an obstacle to a "fresh start" in transatlantic relations, which is well overdue.

For these reasons, we call upon the Federal Government to immediately impose a moratorium on Nord Stream 2 to allow for serious political dialogue. After putting Nord Stream 2 on hold, the American sanctions ought to be suspended.

Specifically, a moratorium should be used to

- clarify the strategic implications of Nord Stream 2 – particularly with respect to the security of Ukraine and of the EU's eastern member states;
- undertake a detailed life cycle assessment of the project and have its climate impacts examined by an independent body;
- push forward with a common European energy policy;
- resolve the transatlantic differences relating to Nord Stream 2 and
- discuss principal issues of controversy between the EU and the Kremlin and reassess Nord Stream 2 in that light of this discussion.

A moratorium for Nord Stream 2 offers a way out of a muddled political situation. It represents a chance to arrive at a common European position. Lastly, and importantly, a moratorium would serve as a clear signal to the Russian leadership that they must expect consequences to ensue from t

continuing violations of international law and of the rules upon which the European order is based.

Please do not to let this chance slip away.

Signatories

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